

... a proud legacy



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A detail of sideboys (right) at the disestablishment ceremony carry the flag after it was lowered for the final time.

Capt. Robert Kernan (above), NAS Barbers Point's final commanding officer, reports the disestablishment of the air station to Rear Adm. John W. Townes III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. "If there is another legacy for which Barbers Point will be known, I hope it is recognition that we were, simply put, good neighbors," Kernan said.



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Sailors "manning the rails" watch as two P-3C Orion aircraft perform a final flyover the parade grounds at NAS Barbers Point during the ceremony. The second part of the July 1 ceremony was dedicated to the opening of the Kalaeloa Community Development District. Highlights of the opening ceremony included a maile lei untying, remarks by Hawaii Governor Benjamin Cayetano and Honolulu Mayor Jeremy Harris, and a hula performance (right) by the Halau Hula O Kukunaokala.



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Barbers Point: Air station, Sailors leave behind rich history, legacy of 'good neighbors'

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service to fleet

Naval Air Station (NAS) Barbers Point, Hawaii, was disestablished July 1 before an audience of 1,500 military and state officials and guests. The air station was officially commissioned in April 1942 and quickly developed into one of the busiest airfields in the world. During its 57-year history, the base trained carrier pilots for combat, provided logistical support for naval aviation forces throughout the Pacific and supported airborne early warning and antisubmarine patrol operations. "After nearly six decades of service to America, Barbers Point stands down, leaving behind powerful memories of service and sacrifice," said Rear Adm. John W. Townes III, Commander, Navy Region Hawaii. "It is good to re-

member this legacy as we close the Navy chapter here." NAS Barbers Point was placed on the Base Realignment and Closure list in 1993. Operational departments and units on the base, including Patrol and Reconnaissance Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, four P-3C Orion squadrons and a helicopter antisubmarine squadron relocated to Marine Corps Base Hawaii at Kaneohe Bay. "If there is another legacy for which Barbers Point will be known, I hope it is recognition that we were, simply put, good neighbors," said Capt. Robert Kernan, Barbers Point's final commanding officer. "Those who have been assigned here - both civilian and those in uniform - have always given selflessly of their time and resources to help others and strengthen the community." The second part of the ceremony was dedicated to the opening of the Kalaeloa Community Development District, the area the Navy turned over to various state agencies for



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Rev. William Kaina performs a traditional Hawaiian blessing in front of a maile lei as Governor Benjamin Cayetano looks on, during the opening ceremony for the Kalaeloa Community Development District. Approximately 2,100 acres of land was transferred to many public benefit agencies, including the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands, the Housing and Community Development Corporation of Hawaii, the Hawaii Department of Education, and the City and County Department of Parks and Recreation.